Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 00218 101747Z ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6818

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EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SOME THOUGHTS ON YOUR DEPARTURE

MY DEAR HENRY:

FAREWELL. IN THE ANNALS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A SECRETARY OF STATE LIKE YOU AND WE SHALL NOT FORGET YOU. YOU CAN DEPEND ON IT. THE SERVICE WILL NEVER PERMIT YOU TO BE SWALLOWED BY OBLIVION. FOR YEARS AND DECADES TO COME THE YOUNGER OFFICERS WILL GATHER TOGETHER AND PROCLAIM PROUDLY TO EACH OTHER THAT THEY WEATHERED THE "THREE-YEAR TWISTER." THEY'LL RECITE FABULOUS TALES OF THE TIME WHEN OUR DIPLOMACY SHUTTLED AND SCUTTLED AROUND THE WORLD, PUTTING THE VALKYRIE TO SHAME, ACCOMPLISHING MUCH OR LITTLE AS THE STORYTELLERS WILL HAVE IT.

FAREWELL. YOU REALLY GAVE US A RIDE. I ENJOY THINKING BACK ON IT AND WANT TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE FOR THE INTERESTING EXPERIENCE RATHER THAN ATTEMPT TO PRAISE YOU. WERE I TO TRY THE LATTER, I COULD NOT POSSIBLY COMPETE WITH THOSE WHO MAKE PRAISE THEIR PROFESSION. AS YOU LEAVE THE DEPARTMENT, HENRY, LOOK BACK AND DECLARE "BY GOD, I SHOOK THAT PLACE UP". BUT DON'T EXPECT THE EFFECT TO BE PERMANENT. AS IN THE CASE OF OZYMANDIAS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEGEND MAY OUTLIVE ACHIEVEMENT, BUT THAT'S NOT THE WORST DEAL ONE CAN GET FROM HISTORY. AFFECTIONATELY. BILL.

P.S. YOUR MESSAGE WAS VERY GENEROUS. I WOULD NOT CHANGE PLACES RIGHT NOW WITH YOU EITHER.
PORTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Subject: SOME THOUGHTS ON YOUR DEPARTURE

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, US, XF, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (PORTER, WILLIAM J)

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